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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/040,002	11/07/2001	Donald L. Lambert	PJW151	9328

7590 11/18/2003
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EXAMINER	
DEB, ANJAN K	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2858	

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicant No.

10/040,002

Applicant(s)

LAMBERT ET AL.

Examiner

Anjan K Deb

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) ☐ Other.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seaman (US 4,281,888).

Re claim 1, Seaman discloses an apparatus for bridging a fuse comprising a base 55, conductive element (60,51,52) that may be brought into contact with and bridge a fuse (Fig. 3).

Re claim 2, Seaman discloses plurality of contact elements (60,51,52).

Re claim 3, Seaman discloses conductive elements (60,51,52) are substantially parallel and in spaced apart relation.

Re claims 4-6, Seaman discloses insulating base 55 comprising resilient compressive material (spring 62).

Re claims 7, Seaman discloses conductive elements (60,51,52) lie within the periphery of base 55.

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3. Claims 1-3,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fan (US 6,252,410 B1).

Re claim 1, Fan discloses an apparatus for bridging a fuse 26 comprising base 12, conductive element 10,11 which may be brought into contact with and bridge the fuse (Fig. 1).

Re claim 2, Fan discloses plurality of contact elements 10,11.

Re claim 3, Fan discloses conductive elements 10,11 are substantially parallel and in spaced apart relation.

Re claims 7, Fan discloses conductive elements 10,11 lie within the periphery of base 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seaman (US 4,281,888) in view of Rennies et al. (US 6,215,323 B1).

Re claim 8, Seaman discloses all of the claimed limitations as set forth above including base 55 mounted on head 72 (assembly)(column 5 lines 47-62)(Fig. 4) except expressly disclosing thermal head.

Rennies et al. discloses thermal head 302 comprising plurality of conductive elements 112 for contacting a device under test 100 (Fig. 4).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Seaman by adding thermal head disclosed by Rennies et al. for controlling the temperature of device while testing.

Re claim 9, Seaman discloses plurality of contact elements (60,51,52).

Re claim 10, Seaman discloses conductive elements (60,51,52) are substantially parallel and in spaced apart relation.

Re claim 11, Seaman discloses insulating base 55 comprising resilient compressive material (spring 62).

Re claim 12 Seaman discloses conductive elements (60,51,52) lie within the periphery of base 55.

Re claim 13, Seaman discloses device includes fuse 20 (Fig. 1-2).

6 Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seaman (US 4,281,888) and Rennies et al. (US 6,215,323 B1) in view of Blankenship et al. (US 4,698,589).

Re claim 14, Seaman as modified by Rennies et al. discloses all of the claimed limitations as set forth above except a resistor operatively associated with a fuse.

Blankenship et al. discloses resistor 30 operatively associated with a fuse 12 in a fuse link programmable memory device (Fig. 1).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Seaman and Rennies et al. by adding resistor operatively associated with a fuse disclosed by Blankenship et al. for programming a memory device.

Pertinent Art

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ohashi (US 6,586,815 B2) discloses semiconductor device having a fuse body (121-128) capable of blowing off a fuse by laser beam (Fig. 3A-C).


Khoury et al. (US 6,250,933) discloses test head 20 comprising conductive elements 31 that bridge element 320 on a semiconductor device 300 (Fig. 5).

Tikhonov (US 5,952,838) discloses test structure for testing semiconductor device having reconfigurable array of fuses comprising fuse associated with resistor R2 and link R2 that bridge the fuse (Fig. 2).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Anjan K. Deb whose telephone number is (703) 305-5219. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, N. Le, can be reached at (703)-308-0750.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703)-308-0956 and (703)-305-4900.



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11/14/03

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